



The Wardens' Wire

DECEMBER 16 – 31 ISSUE # 23

SUN. DEC 16

10.30 AM MORNING PRAYER Advent 3

WED. DEC.20

1.30 AM BIBLE STUDY

THURS DEC 21

5.30 pm POT LUCK DINNER FOLLOWED BY
7.00 COMPLINE SERVICE

SUN DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

10.30 AM CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

MON. DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

FRI. .DEC 29

8 AM – 2.30 PM OFFICE & COMMUNION FOR
THE FEAST OF ST THOMAS BECKETT

SUN. DEC 31

10.30 MORNING PRAYER
FOLLOWED BY POT LUCK LUNCH

LAST COMPLINE SERVICE OF ADVENT – THURSDAY DEC. 21ST. COME AT 5.30, AND SHARE A MEAL AND THEN MEET IN THE SANCTUARY FOR THE BEAUTIFUL COMPLINE SERVICE.

THANKS TO ALL FOR OUR WONDERFULLY SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS MARKET. WE RAISED \$2,300 ...AND STILL COUNTING THERE ARE SOME ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE, WITH A LIST ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THEM FOR A SMALL DONATION PLEASE SEE JUDY, ALISON & SANDRA.

Anything still available by the end of the month will be taken to a thrift store. Get it before it's gone, or

someone else has just what they have been looking for!

THANKS FOR ALL THOSE WHO HELPED PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE, SET UP, TIDY UP, BAKE, KNIT, SELL OR BUY.... WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

Sending Christmas greetings to

**OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
ST GEORGES CHURCH**

**OUR MISSIONARIES NORMA & BILL,
ROBERTA FRYERS, BEA MYERS (ret)**

**AND OUR BISHOPS IN
THE DIOCESE OF NORTH EAST & MID
ATLANTIC OF
REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**OUR MEMBERS BELONGING TO THE
IGLESIA EPISCOPALE REFORMADA DE CUBA
AND IN PARTICULAR OUR PARISH PARTNER
DEACON ERIC MATTEO PARERA & MARISOL
AND THEIR CONGREGATION**

**ALL THOSE WORKING WITH THE REC-ANIC
CUBA MISSION SOCIETY**

**THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
THE UNITED STATES,
CROATIA, SERBIA AND HUNGARY
AND IN GERMANY
BISHOP GERHARD MEYER
DAVID AND PATRICA AYRS**

**ST GEORGE'S, BLACKBURN, LANC. UK
FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**FRIENDS HERE AND ABROAD WHO TOUCH
OUR LIVES AND HEARTS IN SO MANY WAYS,**



The Wardens' Wire

Perhaps I shouldn't admit to ownership of this little Christmas tale but I will. I will because I learned a lesson that I was far too old to be learning. In the meantime it makes me look bad. I don't mind. That's how we grow.

Many moons ago (like in the Carol " 'Twas in the moon of winter-time") we had three tiny children. And during one of those moons I decided that I would replicate a perfect Martha Stewart Christmas. And we all know how important that is. And how impossible.

I helped the children stir the mix for the gingerbread people so we could bake them and hang them on the tree complete with red ribbons to secure them. It seemed like a novel idea to tie plaid bows on the stems of the juice glasses for Christmas dinner. I sewed red quilted placemats, typed up Christmas poems and put them under the grandparent's plates so they could read them aloud between the removal of the Turkey carcass and the arrival of the pudding. A pot of paperwhites in the middle of the table, white candles. Perfection. It seemed.

During that same time in our lives it was our joy to welcome many incoming families to Hamilton who were escaping a war. For all of them it was their first Christmas in a strange and frozen land, away from all that they loved. I could barely imagine their homesickness but they never complained, never let on, remained stoic in the season of jingle bells and Burl Ives with his Holly Jolly Christmas wishes.

One afternoon a family arrived at our door with a gift they had made for us. It was a huge wire circle tied with tissue paper streamers in every colour imaginable and threaded through with bright Christmas lights. The father of the family hung it in our front window, plugged it in and we sat watching the flashing lights as we drank our hot tea. The children were delighted.

I recognized the love that was wrapped up in the construction of that gift. I loved them back for it.

But.

I thought I would take it down at day's end. It didn't match my plaid bows, nor my newly sewn placemats.

I kept my thoughts to myself and thanked them when they went on their ways.

I've never been stung with a cattle prod but I came close when the smallest child in that family, an adorable little boy of seven, his legs dangling from the sofa, pointed to the happy wreath flashing in the window and said, in his brave refugee camp English, " Star! Bethlehem! They found Jesus!"

That little darling had delivered the strongest sermon possible. Although I'd been singing Away In A Manger since I was old enough to talk something had escaped me that Christmas.

His Love was sitting right there in front of me in our living room and while I was concerned with tying bows on juice glasses I'd almost overlooked Him.

You'll be relieved to know that I'm not all bad. That glorious wreath blinked its way in the front window every Christmas for years afterwards until it fell apart.

I hope it was marking a place where Jesus could be found. JUDY

Thank you for all who contributed to our 'annual' Christmas Sock/Scarf/Mitts/ tree. The contents were taken to the Streetlight Foundation early in December -- but lo and behold the tree is nearly full again !! Such wonderful gifts to share with those in need. You may see your lovely knitted hat or scarf keeping someone warm on the streets of Hamilton this winter ... made with love, given with joy, thank you to all of you.



The Wardens' Wire

Congratulations to Lisa Richmond on her new book, "Discourses on the State and Grandeurs of Jesus, The Ineffable Union of the Deity with Humanity." (The Catholic University of America Press, Washington,D.C.)

To quote from the flap, " Pierre De Berulle (1575-1629) is one of the foremost personalities of early modern Catholicism. As the founder of the "French school" of spirituality, he has exercised a profound influence on the Church from the seventeenth century to the present day. Until now, however, very little of Berulle's writings have been available in English."

It is Lisa Richmond who has translated them from the French. We're proud of your committed translation work Lisa. Congratulations from your friends at St. George's.

For those of you who don't know, Lisa is Vice President of the think tank Cardus. We're happy that you and Jonathan have chosen to worship at St. George's.

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 29TH

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO DROP BY FOR A SHORT TIME, OR FOR THE WHOLE DAY ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 29TH YOU WILL BE ENRICHED BY THE BEAUTIFUL ANCIENT SERVICE OF THE OFFICE AND COMMUNION FOR THE FEAST OF ST THOMAS BECKET.

Matins will begin around 8 am, continuing with Lauds, Prime, Chapter, Terce, Sex, Communion at around 11 am and None. Lunch will follow (bring your own or to share) At approximately 1 pm Vespers and Compline, ending at approximately 2 pm. The Office will be sung according to the Medieval Use of

Sarum (Salisbury) in Latin, but with the lessons in English; the Communion will be sung according to the Medieval Use of York, in Latin, but with the lessons in English. If you wish to sing along, ask William R for a copy of the music in advance.

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Update On Refugee Sponsorship –

You will be interested to know that Mohammad has got himself to another country with a visa and now he is able to have himself listed as a refugee with the United Nation's High Commission For Refugees. This is a huge step forward.

We had a lengthy Zoom meeting with our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, World Renew, in B.C. this week. The woman working with us led us step by step through this lengthy process. She asked us never to put photos of him online or to share his private information. We must keep him safe. World Renew is under the aegis of the Christian Reformed Church. They have been most gracious to accept our challenge.

It will hearten you to know that we have almost reached halfway to our financial goal. Given that it could take one year to meet him at the Canada Arrivals gate at Pearson, God willing, we have time to raise what is needed.

Our worker in BC reminded us to pray for him and for his safety for his long route ahead. Also, please pray for his parents. It must be so difficult to let go of your children but that is how much they love him and want a good future for him.

This is Matthew 25 work we are doing together. "I was a stranger and you took me in."

Thank you! God bless you all. - Judy

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ON THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.

In post-Reformation England, Roman Catholics were prevented from openly practicing their faith. So this old folk song helped children remember tenets of their faith.

The hidden meaning of the gifts given by "my True Love" (God) are:

- A partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ
- Two turtle doves – the Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens – faith, hope, and love ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#))
- Four calling birds – the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Five gold rings – the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament)
- Six geese a-laying – the six days of creation before the first Sabbath rest
- Seven swans a-swimming – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy ([Romans 12:6-8](#))
- Eight maids a-milking – the eight Beatitudes: Blessed are the poor, mourning, humble, oppressed, merciful, pure-hearted, peacemaking, persecuted ([Matthew 5:3-10](#))
- Nine ladies dancing – the nine fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))
- Ten lords a-leaping – the Ten Commandments
- Eleven pipers piping – the eleven faithful disciples
- Twelve drummers drumming – the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed

Each verse in the song comes back to one gift: the partridge in a pear tree. Jesus Christ. The baby in a manger. Our Savior who came quietly

into the world to offer full forgiveness and restoration with our True Love, God. Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Whether or not this folk song taught children about their faith, it can teach all of us to pause and consider the blessed gifts we've been given as children of God.

*(taken from Internet sources!)
Interesting but factual ??!*

Food Share: We are planning our next food bank giving for early February, when the need is greatdetails will follow in a few weeks. These very successful food collections are most welcome at Crossfire, and St George's is pleased to partner with them in providing those living in Hamilton with nourishment and love. Thank you to all for your support in this endeavour over the past year.

What a wonderful year 2023 has been at St George's We have had many successful events, weekly activities, have welcomed many through our doors, and gained many new friends who share our space. Your wardens thank you to all for your encouragement and support.

Alison

THANK YOU TO THE VERY CRAFT-Y AND TALENTED SANDRA B FOR HER HELP WITH DECORATING THE CHURCH AND HALL FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

ALISON

Sending Christmas greetings and love to all those members of St George's who haven't been able to



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get to church on Sundays for some time. You are missed . We hope that our Warden's Wire has kept you feeling close and part of the family.

JPS/AB 23